

**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ESTABLISHING LINK BIT RATE FOR  
INVERSE MULTIPLEXED DATA STREAMS**

**ABSTRACT**

A system and method are provided for determining link characteristics  
5 in order to calculate the optimal data rate because of a link failure. The  
system includes a first unit (20, 22) at a first location coupled to one end of  
each of a plurality of low capacity data links (28) for assisting in determining  
the characteristics of each of the links (28), a second unit (22, 20) at the  
second location coupled to the other end of each of the links (28) for assisting  
10 in determining the characteristics of each of the links (28) based on the  
characteristics of the test signal received at the second unit (22, 20), and a  
processor coupled to the second unit (22, 20) for determining the optimal  
transmission rate based on the characteristics of the links (28) and the number  
of links (28) needed to provide the desired transmission rate.